a year and are renewed at the time of expiry of contract period.

Bids for Oil and Gas Exploration

2163. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil firms that have responded to the notice for fourth round of bidding for oil and gas exploration in the country; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) One bid has been received to-date. The last date for receipt of bids is 15th April, 1992.

(b) Does not arise.

Complaints against M/s. Mangalam Flames

2164. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL ALIAS MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maximum limit of consumers has not been prescribed for an LPG distributor;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the number of complaints received against M/s. Mangalam Flames, Amroha (U.P.) during the last two years along with the nature of complaints;

(d) what action Government have taken on each of the complaints so far;

(e) whether it is also a fact that officials of oil companies are not taking strict action against the erring distributors; and

(f) if so, what action Government puopose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Ceilings have been prescribed on the number of refills in a month.

(c) and (d) Four complaints regarding delay in release of connection/DBC, underweight cylinders and delay in supply of refills were received. After investigation by the IOC it was found that no action was necessary against the distributor.

(e) and (f) Appropriate action is taken against erring distributor under Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Payment of Royalty by ONGC to State Governments

2165. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Business and Political Observer dated 18th February 1992 under the caption "ONGC may be forced to default on royalty payments"; and

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Commission has informed that it has not defaulted in payment of any statutory charges due to the State Governments or Central Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

दिल्ली में रसोई गैस के वितरक

2166. **श्री अनन्तराय देव शंकर दवे:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली में जन संख्या की वृद्धि को देखते हुए सरकार ने पिछली जून से दिल्ली में रसोई गैस के कितने वितरक नियुक्त किये हैं;

(ख) उनके चयन के लिये क्या कसौटी अपनायी गयी थी;